

Phone: 608/266-1714

OstSocialMedia@wi.gov

Fax: 608/266-2647

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7871 Madison, WI 53707-7871

March 2, 2012

For Immediate Release Ron Giordan 608-266-5757 ron.giordan@wisconsin.gov

State Treasury Returning \$1 Million per Week

For the first time ever, \$4 million months back to back

(MADISON) State Treasurer Kurt Schuller announced today that his office is continuing its strong efforts to return unclaimed assets to current and former Wisconsin residents. February ended with more than \$4 million returned. The Unclaimed Property Unit of the Office of the State Treasury is averaging \$1 million returned per week.

"We have certainly seen an increase in claims as well as in the amounts that are being returned," State Treasurer Schuller said. "Our outreach efforts are successful and we will continue to make sure people know we are holding their money and that we want to give it back."

February saw Claims Examiners return \$4,386,840 on 2,872 claims. Combined with January's numbers, \$4,003,873 on 2,668 claims and the State Treasury has returned \$8,390,713 on 5,540 claims in just 2 months. Last year, after 2 months, the office had returned \$6,796,085 on 3,457 claims.

Since the first week of January, residents statewide have heard a radio commercial and are seeing a television commercial about unclaimed property urging them to search for their cash at www.wismissingmoney.com. On April 1st, the new names in the database will start appearing in newspapers across the state. The newspaper listings for each county will last April 1st through the end of June.

We have also teamed up with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs to locate veterans with unclaimed property, the Wisconsin Employee Trust Fund to locate beneficiaries and will move forward with plans to reunite state workers with their missing money.